

CALIFORNIA TO STORE FEDERAL DISASTER MEDICAL RESPONSE SUPPLIES AMOUNTING TO MILLIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

CONTACT: Shirley Tsagris
916-322-4336



SACRAMENTO – Disaster medical response equipment and supplies will be stored in the Sacramento area soon through a Memorandum of Agreement signed between the California Emergency Medical Services Authority and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The specialized disaster medical response equipment and supplies are for immediate use when responding to medical disasters in the State of California or elsewhere as determined by the United States Government.

This is the first time California has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for this type of supplies. It will allow the establishment and maintenance of a West Coast cache of disaster medical response equipment valued at several million dollars. The material includes emergency response vehicles, support equipment and supplies packaged in specialized storage containers.

The purpose of the agreement is to: 1) strengthen the coordination between the parties in the planning for medical disaster response; 2) enhance the medical response capability within the State of California as well as the western part of the United States, Guam, and the U.S. Trust Territories; and 3) considerably decrease response time in providing field support to Disaster Medical Assistance Teams and other responding medical and health resources.

Governor Gray Davis included \$169,000 in the budget for the EMS Authority to develop field disaster medical support capability in cooperation with the federal government. This agreement will enable the State, with a minimum investment,

to have access to valuable supplies for immediate disaster response use in California.

The repair and replacement of equipment will be the responsibility of the party using the equipment.

The agreement was signed at a ceremony at the National Disaster Medical System Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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